

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04671 161257Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 MC-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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P R 161141Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 9604

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 4671

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION: DEMIREL NEWS CONFERENCE
AND ARMS EMBARGO

REF: ANKARA 4649

1. MONDAY (JUNE 16) EDITIONS OF TURKISH DAILIES GAVE TOP
FRONT-PAGE PLAY TO PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL'S
NEWS CONFERENCE SUNDAY. (SEE REFTTEL). COVERAGE FOCUSED
PREDOMINANTLY ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING
THE ARMS EMBARGO, WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION TO
HIS COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04671 161257Z

2. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING MILLIYET, CUMHURIYET AND

GUNAYDIN, REPORT THAT AT MONDAY'S MEETINGS OF THE TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE CABINET A SCHEDULE FOR THE CLOSING OF VARIOUS U.S. INSTALLATIONS WILL BE DECIDED UPON. THE SCHEDULE WOULD RUN ITS COURSE UNTIL THE ARMS EMBARGO IS LIFTED. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, PERSONNEL OF THE JOINT U.S. MILITARY MISSION FOR ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY (JUSMMAT) WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY INSOFAR AS THEY HAVE NO FUNCTION AS A RESULT OF THE EMBARGO.

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT ACTION AS A RESULT OF THE ARMS EMBARGO MAY BE SEEN AS BLACKMAIL BY SOME ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THUS ACCELERATE THE NEGATIVE TREND IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS--SOMETHING NEITHER SIDE DESIRES. HE URGED THAT AT MONDAY'S MEETINGS, THE GOVERNMENT WEIGH VERY CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF ANY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN ON LONG-TERM RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. LEST THERE BE AN ESCALATION FROM WHICH THERE COULD BE NO RETURN.

4. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN SAID IT WILL SOON BE KNOWN WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WILL CHOOSE TO REGARD ACTION TAKEN BY TURKEY AS BLACKMAIL. THE PAPER URGED THAT TURKISH LEADERS, IN DECIDING WHICH INSTALLATIONS TO CLOSE, CAREFULLY DETERMINE THEIR REAL VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES.

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